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MAR 2 0 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Examiner

Sonya Wright

Group

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Applicants

Michael R. Hale, et al.

Application No.

09/591,464

Confirmation No.

2787

Filed

June 9, 2000

For

INHIBITORS OF ASPARTYL PROTEASÉ

New York, New York March 14, 2003

Box AF

Hon. Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 2327

Arlington, Virginia 22202

AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the January 15, 2003 Final Office Action in the above-identified application. Applicants are filing this response within two months of the mailing date of the Final Office Action - up to and including March 17, 2003 (March 15, 2003 being a Saturday and March 16, 2003 being a Sunday) and thus no fee is due.